(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to lessen the nitrate contents and make it safe for drinking purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Water quality monitoring of drinking water supply sources is undertaken by the State Governments. Under the National Drinking Water Mission one of the five Sub Mission deals with Water quality monitoring and assessment. In the Mini Mission Project Areas, water quality analysis are also being conducted by Industrial Toxological Research Institute, Lucknow, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay. Training courses are organised by Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur, NEERI and ITRC for the employees of State Governments and voluntary agencies. Whenever the State Government informs the Central Government about nitrate content beyond the permissible limit of 45 mg per litre in drinking water, technical clearance is given for schemes under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme with alternative safe source of drinking water. Attempts are also being made to develop low cost technology for removal of excess nitrate. Water quality monitoring is a continuous process and appropriate remedial measures are taken for control of excessive chemicals beyond permissible limits in drinking water.

Scholarship to Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes by Government of Madhya Pradesh

959. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 20 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward areas have been provided with scholarships at the end of September in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what were the total scholarships provided to the students uptil now and whether State Government have prepared a number of schemes for the welfare of SC|ST students in the States; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the same and to what extent the SC and ST students will be provided with facilities during 1988-89?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) The information is being collecte from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incentives for Mini Steel Plants

960. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be plesaed to state:

(a) the number of Arc and Induction Furnace Units operating in the country;

(b) whether the steel ingot production through these furnace units has been taken into account for planning of the steel requirements of the country; and

(c) if so, what incentives are being given to the mini steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) There are 163 licensed and commissioned Arc Furnace Units and about 600 Induction Furnace Units operating upto September, 1988.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to enable the units to become technologically efficient and more viable, Government have decided to allow expansion of mini steel plants which undertake modernisation. Government have also reduced the custom duty on imported scrap by 5 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from 4th December, 1986.

Shortage of Tea Stocks in Shahdara Godown of NCCF

961. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Deputy Manager and now Regional Mana-